By Yang, Warsame, Reich, Quincy, Palmisano, B. Johnson, A. Johnson, Gordon, Goodman, Glidden, Frey, Cano, Bender

## Honoring William Matthew Little

WHEREAS: William Matthew Little was born in 1921 in Washington, North Carolina. He attended North Carolina A & T and received a B.A. in Biology. Shortly after graduating, he was drafted and served in an all-black regiment during World War II. He moved to the Twin Cities in 1948, where he began his lifelong advocacy work around equality for the African American community. Little was a prominent civil

rights leader and activist in Minnesota for over 50 years.

WHEREAS: Matthew Little became a board member of the Minneapolis National Association for

the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1954 and organized a large group of Minnesotans to join the historic 1963 March on Washington, where Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. Not only did he become an influential leader against institutional racism, he pushed several successful campaigns to gain equality. Little worked to integrate the Minneapolis Fire Department; to advocate for

Minnesota's first fair housing laws; and to desegregate Minneapolis public schools.

Matthew Little was elected five times to Minnesota's DFL State Executive Committee, among other great accomplishments. In recognition of his contributions to the community, he was awarded an honorary doctor of law from the University of

Minnesota Law School in May 2002.

WHEREAS: Matthew Little was instrumental in the creation of the Minneapolis Civil Rights

Commission.

WHEREAS:

WHEREAS: Matthew Little passed away on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

WHEREAS: During his career and life, Matthew Little was a great mentor and inspiration to others

through his dedication to the overall community generally and the African American community specifically. His leadership was instrumental in Minnesota towards diversity, inclusion and equal rights; and given that this is Black History Month it

seems especially proper to honor such a great man as Matthew Little.

Now, Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL:

THAT WE HONOR MATTHEW LITTLE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS AND PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 21ST, 2014,

## MATTHEW LITTLE DAY

	by the City Council this the Day of February A.D. 2014
 Barbara	A. Johnson, President of Council
APPRO	VED:
Betsy H	odges, Mayor
ATTEST	7:
Casey Id	oe Carl, City Clerk